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241413Z Jan 05

ACTION DRL-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DOEE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	M-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	NIMA-00
	PA-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00	P-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	R-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/001W				

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0798
INFO AMEMBASSY ABUJA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DRL, INR, AF, AF/C; LONDON AND PARIS FOR
AFRICAWATCHERS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [CD](#) [SU](#) [VIP](#)

SUBJECT: SENATOR FEINGOLD MEETS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Classified By: Political/Economic Officer Kathleen FitzGibbon for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: Senator Russell Feingold expressed appreciation for Chad's cooperation in the war on terror and discussed human rights with Defense Minister Emmanuel Nadingar during his visit on January 13. Nadingar welcomed U.S. support for the Chadian military, which he says is needed to help to transform the role of the armed forces in society. He emphasized the resource needs of the Chadian military to continue to fight terrorism, secure Chad's eastern border, improve the human rights record of the security forces, and play a positive supporting role for Chad's democratic institutions. In a separate meeting, human rights activists described Chad's human rights record as poor and argued that strengthening the country's judicial system is the key to punishing and deterring human rights abuses. We are engaging Chadian ministers and human rights groups to find ways to improve the human rights record of the security forces. End Summary.

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TERRORISM
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2. (SBU) On January 13, Senator Russell Feingold, Ambassador Wall, Senate Staff Assistant Michelle Gavin, military assistant Ed Danielson, P/E officer and DATT met with Minister for National Defense Emmanuel Nadingar, Deputy Minister for Public Security Mahamat Gali Mallah, and Deputy Minister for Justice Domaye Daniel. Defense Minister Nadingar thanked Senator Feingold for his visit and for U.S. collaboration on counter-terrorism. Nadingar was very appreciative of the Defense Attache's Office and the U.S. military's efforts to increase Chad's capacity to fight terrorism. Chad's military has benefited from logistics assistance and information sharing. Nadingar said that working together, Chad and the United States have been effective in countering the terrorist threat.

3. (C) Nadingar told Feingold that the cooperation of Chad's neighbors is critical to counter-terrorism. He said that Algeria, Niger, and Libya provide information on rebel and terrorist movements. The coordination effort among the neighbors is generally good. Algeria provided a wide range of assistance, including medical treatment for Chadians injured during clashes with the Salafists. Nadingar wants an anti-terrorism system in place before the next threat develops. He said that real-time information that will allow Chad to track the terrorists is an important need. He fears that if terrorists make it into Chad, they can have an effect on all of Chad.

14. (C) Nadingar said that the relationship between the Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad (MDJT) and Al Para was dangerous and he is worried about the development of similar linkages between local rebel groups and international terrorists. Such a group could become a terrorist group and undermine civil society institutions by providing them support and coopting them. In the case of Al Para, he needed assistance getting around northern Chad and the MDJT had that expertise. However, Al Para did not give the MDJT the assistance they expected in return and as a result turned him over.

15. (C) Feingold asked about other rebel activity in Chad. Nadingar said that Chad,s former Ambassador to the United States Soubiane is organizing a movement in another country. (Comment: Sudan. End Comment.) The MDJT is negotiating a peace agreement with the Government. There are other small groups acting in their own interests that remain unfocused and without a political agenda. Still, there are some Chadians that might want to transform these groups into a real threat to the regime.

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DARFUR
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16. (SBU) Nadingar told Feingold that the crisis in Darfur has a deep impact in Chad. He added that Chad needs to ensure security on its 1,000-kilometer eastern border and must work with Sudan to ensure that security. Nadingar opined that the east could be an important economic zone if the area was stable. He noted that Chad has welcomed a large number of refugees and that the Sudanese refugees are equal to or outnumber local populations. Unfortunately, Nadingar pointed out, some of the Sudanese refugees still maintain a &war mentality8 from their experience in Sudan and have become a source of security problems in Chad.

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LIBYA
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17. (C) Feingold asked about the state of Chad,s relationship with Libya. Nadingar said it is important for Chad to maintain its relationship with Libya for the well-being of Chadians living near the border.

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HUMAN RIGHTS
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18. (SBU) Feingold asked Nadingar what happens to members of the security forces that commit human rights violations. Nadingar began by telling Feingold that the armed forces will not be benefiting from the influx of oil revenues and that without funding, the army can be a destabilizing force. He explained that for a long period of time, the military included a large number of security personnel. He admitted that many of them behaved badly and were responsible for abuses. Currently, the military sanctions perpetrators, jails them, and kicks them out of the army. Feingold thanked Nadingar for his response and emphasized the importance of accountability in cases of human rights abuses.

19. (SBU) The Minister told Feingold that there is a full review of the military coming up in April. He noted that the military,s ability to defend the country is essential for Chad,s development. The Army can assist in ensuring peace and security throughout Chad. Nadingar said that he wants to increase salaries for soldiers and build better camps to improve living conditions for them. There is a need for training, particularly skills training for soldiers that are retiring. A new generation of soldiers need to be indoctrinated to civilian rule. The military needs more logistics support. Nadingar said that he wants to deliver a strong message that will help the military change and adapt to democracy. He said that Chadians must understand why it is important to strengthen, not weaken, its military forces, to facilitate its transformation. He welcomed U.S. assistance for these objectives.

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HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ROUNDTABLE
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10. (SBU) Feingold asked prominent human rights activists for their views on the human rights situation in Chad, the perpetrators of abuses, the treatment of opposition party leaders and activists by the government, and their views on the fight against terrorism. The activists pointed out that members of the security forces and armed bandits are responsible for most of the human rights abuses. The activists also expressed concern that the government does not consult the public on key urban planning issues, particularly

planned housing developments. The proposed Toumai housing project, for example, will displace thousands of N'Djamena residents yet there have been no public consultations over the issue.

¶11. (SBU) Members of the group told Feingold that within N'Djamena, they are free to conduct their human rights-related activities. Outside N'Djamena, however, they have experienced problems with local government officials and

security personnel. They told Feingold that the weakness of the judiciary remains a key challenge to improving Chad's human rights record because a functioning judiciary could help deter abuses and improve the human rights situation. They argued that a strong judicial system, for example, could have prevented the detention of political party leaders in ¶2001.

¶12. (SBU) Regarding U.S. efforts to fight terrorism, the group expressed concerns about the amount of resources mobilized. They are worried about their ability to get support from the United States if they criticize their government. They appealed for more U.S. assistance to help improve the human rights situation in Chad.

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COMMENT
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¶13. (C) Nadingar is interested in reforming the military, including improving its poor human rights record. We are engaging him directly on human rights issues but agree that payment of salaries and training are key factors in improving the human rights situation in Chad. Perhaps the upcoming "Status of the Army" review is an opportunity to help support these reform efforts. We agree with the human rights activists that strengthening Chad's judiciary is critical if human rights abuses are to be deterred and punished.

¶14. Khartoum and Tripoli Minimize Considered.
WALL

NNNN